

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66615

DRAFTED BY EUR/RPM: DTELLEN:DJM

APPROVED BY EUR/RPM:THFROWICK

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R 212058Z NOV 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 230806

LIMDIS, GENEVA FOR US CSCE DELEGATION

FOL REPEAT STATE 230806 SENT ACTION PARIS INFO EC BRUSSELS
BONN ROME LONDON THE HAGUE COPENHAGEN LUXEMBOURG NATO
OCT 19

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 230806

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, FR

SUBJECT: US/EC-NINE CONSULTATIONS

REF: PARIS 23152 AND STATE 219655

1. AS INDICATED REFTEL WE HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING THE
QUESTION OF US/EC-NINE CONSULTATIONS AND THE
SUGGESTIONS PUT FORTH EMBASSY REFTEL. WE AGREE WITH EMBASSY'S
EMPHASIS ON THE NEED TO BROADEN OUR CONSULTATIONS WITH
THE NINE AND THAT THERE NOW EXISTS AN OPPORTUNITY TO
PROCEED IN THAT DIRECTION.

2. A MORE RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT IN FRANCE MAY ALSO
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PROVIDE US WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO MOVE AWAY FROM OVER-

RELIANCE ON A BILATERAL CHANNEL TO THE NINE, I.E. THROUGH THE EC COUNCIL PRESIDENCY, BEFORE JANUARY, WHEN IRELAND, THE LEAST EXPERIENCED OF THE EC COUNTRIES, WILL ASSUME THE CHAIR.

3. WE REALIZE THAT DIFFICULTIES IN OUR COMMUNICATION WITH THE NINE DERIVE PARTLY FROM THE AD HOC AND RUDIMENTARY NATURE OF THE CURRENT EC NINE POLITICAL COOPERATION EFFORT AND THAT NO METHOD FOR ENHANCING THE US/EC DIALOGUE WILL OVERCOME THIS. THE NINE AS SUCH IS NOT AN INDEPENDENT POLITICAL ENTITY CAPBLE OF CARRYING ON AN INDEPENDENT DIALOGUE WITH US. NEVERTHELESS, WE BELIEVE THERE ARE WAYS TO IMPROVE THE EXISTING SITUATION AND TO INSURE THAT WE MAKE BOTH THE FORM AND CONTENT OF OUR DIALOGUE RESPONSIVE TO THE EVOLUTION OF THE NIN'S ABILITY TO CONSULT EFFECTIVELY ON POLITICAL QUESTIONS. SHOULD THE NINE DECIDE TO ESTABLISH A POLITICAL SECRETARIAT, FOR EXAMPLE, WE WOULD WANT TO ESTABLISH WORKING RELATIONS WITH IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

4. WITH THE ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS IN MIND, WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES FOR ARRANGING A MEETING DURING THE NEXT COUPLE OF MONTHS BETWEEN HIGH-LEVEL US OFFICIALS AND THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS OF THE NINE TO GO OVER VARIOUS CURRENT POLITICAL ISSUES WHERE THE NINE HAVE BEEN ACTIVE, AS WELL AS CORRESPONDING ISSUES ON THE US SIDE OF INTEREST TO THE NIEN. SUCH A MEETING, POSSIBLY IN CONJUNCTION WITH TRAVEL OF HIGH-LEVEL US OFFICIALS TO EUROPE IN CONNECTION WITH OTHER ACTIVIES, WOULD TAKE US A STEP BEYOND OUR PREVIOUS HABIT OF CONSULTING WITH THE NINE ON INDIVIDUAL ISSUES AS THEY BECOME CRITICAL, OR AFTE THE EVENT. IN ADVANCE OF THE IRISH PRESIDENCY, IT WOULD MOVE US AWAY FROM A DIALOGUE LIMITED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE PRESIDENCY. SUCH A DISCUSSION WOULD FACILITATE AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS IN ADVANCE OF EC-NINE DECISIONS. IF SUCCESSFUL, IT COULD ALSO BECOME THE FIRST STEP IN DEVELOPING AN INFORMAL DIALOGUE WITH THE NINE ON POLITICAL ISSUES SIMILAR TO THAT WHICH WE PRESENTLY CARRY ON WITH THE COMMUNITY ON ECONOMIC ISSUES.

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5. COUNSELOR SONNENFELDT AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN WILL BE VISITING BONN, BRUSSELS, AND LONDON ON THEIR RETURN FROM MOSCOW AT THE END OF THIS MONTH. HARTMAN WILL ALSO VISIT PARIS. PROSPECTS FOR HOLDING MEETING DESCRIBED IN THIS MESAG WILL BE EXPLORED WITH PUAUX, AND POSSIBLY OTHER POLITICAL DIRECTOS AS WELL. EMBASSIES WILL RECEIVE SEPARATE CABLE ON SONNENFELDT/HARTMAN TRIP. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PFOR
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE230806
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DTELLEN:DJM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741122/aaaaasdp.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 74 PARIS 23152 AND STATE 219655
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 APR 2002 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <14-Aug-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US/EC-NINE CONSULTATIONS
TAGS: FR, EEC
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005